

1 determining whether [an] the number of access response messages awaiting
2 transmission meets a predetermined criterion; and
3 if so,
4 diverting at least one paging message.

2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Amended) The method according to Claim [2] 1, wherein said step of
2 determining whether said access response message situation meets a predetermined
3 criterion comprises the step of determining whether said number exceeds a predetermined
4 threshold.

1 4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein said predetermined threshold
2 comprises five.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of
2 analyzing an access response message situation comprises the steps of determining [a] the

3 number of access response messages that are awaiting transmission and determining an age
4 of an oldest access response message that is awaiting transmission.

1 9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of diverting at least one
2 paging message comprises the step of deleting said at least one paging message.

1 10. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of diverting at least one
2 paging message comprises the step of delaying said at least one paging message.

1 11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said step of delaying said at
2 least one paging message comprises the step of delaying said at least one paging message
3 until said access response message situation no longer meets said predetermined criterion
4 or a predetermined period of time elapses.

1 12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of diverting at least one
2 paging message comprises the step of diverting a plurality of paging messages according
3 to respective priority levels of said plurality of paging messages.

1 13. The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
2 repeating said steps of analyzing and determining; and
3 diverting additional paging messages of said plurality of paging messages,
4 said additional paging messages associated with a higher priority level.

1 14. (Amended) A base station enabled to provide capacity to access response
2 messages, comprising:

3 a transceiver;

4 a processor;

5 a memory; and

6 at least one logic module operatively associated with said transceiver and
7 interrelated to at least one of said processor and said memory, said at least one logic
8 module configured to:

9 analyze [an] a number of access response messages [situation];

10 determine whether said number of access response messages
11 [situation] awaiting transmission meets a predetermined criterion; and

12 if so,

13 divert at least one paging message.

1 15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Amended) The base station according to Claim [15] 14, wherein said at
2 least one logic module is further configured to determine whether said number exceeds a
3 predetermined threshold when determining whether said access response message situation
4 meets said predetermined criterion.

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1 17. The base station according to Claim 16, wherein said predetermined
2 threshold comprises five.

1 18. (Canceled)

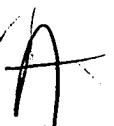
1 19. (Canceled)

1 20. (Canceled)

1 21. (Amended) The base station according to Claim 14, wherein said at least
2 one logic module is further configured to determine [a number of access response messages
3 that are awaiting transmission and determine] an age of an oldest access response message
4 that is awaiting transmission when analyzing said access response message situation.

1 22. The base station according to Claim 14, wherein said at least one logic
2 module is further configured to delete said at least one paging message when diverting said
3 at least one paging message.

1 23. The base station according to Claim 14, wherein said at least one logic
2 module is further configured to delay said at least one paging message by storing said at
3 least one paging message in said memory when diverting said at least one paging message.



1 24. The base station according to Claim 23, wherein said at least one logic
2 module is further configured to delay said at least one paging message until said access
3 response message situation no longer meets said predetermined criterion or a
4 predetermined period of time elapses when delaying said at least one paging message.

1 25. The base station according to Claim 14, wherein said at least one logic
2 module is further configured to divert a plurality of paging messages according to
3 respective priority levels of said plurality of paging messages when diverting said at least
4 one paging message.

1 26. The base station according to Claim 25, wherein said at least one logic
2 module is further configured to:
3 repeat the analysis and the determination; and
4 divert additional paging messages of said plurality of paging messages, said
5 additional paging messages associated with a higher priority level.

1 27. (Amended) A method for ensuring that lower priority messages are
2 provided a minimum bandwidth in a wireless communications system, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 providing lower priority messages and higher priority messages that share
5 a given bandwidth;

6 transmitting higher priority messages;

7 determining whether a backlog of lower priority messages exists by
8 comparing a number of backlogged lower priority messages to a predetermined overload
9 number;

10 diverting at least one higher priority message responsive to an affirmative
11 determination that said backlog of lower priority messages exists;

12 transmitting lower priority messages using bandwidth freed from said step
13 of diverting.

1 28. The method according to Claim 27, wherein said lower priority messages
2 comprise access response messages and said higher priority messages comprise paging
3 messages.

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1 29. (Amended) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said step of
2 determining whether a backlog of lower priority messages exists further comprises [at least
3 one of] the [following] steps of:

4 [comparing a number of backlogged lower priority messages to a
5 predetermined overload number; and]

6 comparing an age of an oldest backlogged lower priority message to a
7 predetermined overload age.

1 30. The method according to Claim 27, wherein said step of diverting at least
2 one higher priority message responsive to an affirmative determination that said backlog
3 of lower priority messages exists comprises the step of diverting a plurality of higher
4 priority messages in an order determined according to a selected priority ranking.

1 31. The method according to Claim 27, wherein said step of transmitting lower
2 priority messages using bandwidth freed from said step of diverting comprises the step of
3 transmitting a higher priority subset of said lower priority messages before transmitting a
4 lower priority subset of said lower priority messages.

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1 32. (Amended) A method for temporarily prioritizing access response messages
2 over paging messages, comprising the steps of:
3 detecting whether a control channel is overloaded by ascertaining a [status
4 of] number of access response messages awaiting transmission for an access response
5 channel;
6 regulating said control channel by reducing the bandwidth of said control
7 channel that is consumed by a paging channel; and
8 transmitting at least one access response message on said access response
9 channel.

Please add new Claim 33:

1 33. (New) A method for providing bandwidth to access response messages,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 analyzing a number of access response messages;
4 determining whether the number of access response messages awaiting
5 transmission meets a predetermined criterion; and
6 if so,
7 diverting at least one paging message.

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